

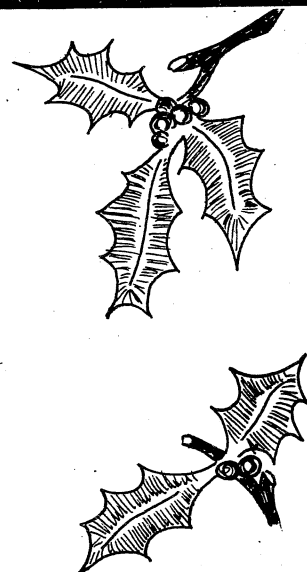
Nov/Dec 1976 No 22

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HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

MERRY CHRISTMAS ISSUE

all the cuts you can't afford



Well, here we are again, it's Christmas, and the goose is getting thin...

No doubt those International Financiers would tell you that it's the season of goodwill to all men... unless, of course, you happen to be old, sick, pregnant, unemployed, a council-house tenant, or in fact anything other than rich and healthy -- in which case they just don't want to know!

Despite all the gloom and despondency Hackney People's Press wishes all its friends and readers a happy Christmas.

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ALARM BELLS ARE RINGING FOR HACKNEY'S HEALTH

The brutal proposed cuts in the Health Service in Hackney (outlined in the last issue of Hackney People's Press) are still in the news - and are now being put into action. The Area Health Authority voted on the closure of the Metropolitan and the Mother's Hospitals at their last meeting on 11 November. In this issue we publish details of the fight being put up at Hackney Hospital by the junior doctors, and an outline of the unwieldy structure of the health authorities, which shows how difficult it is for health workers to fight back.

There has been mass coverage in the media about the Cuts. What has all this publicity led to? Answer NOTHING. Much has been said about the appalling health problems of the area. Everyone agrees that to cut the Health Service in our area will endanger MORE lives and INCREASE suffering. The Area Health Authority say they can't do anything but impose the Cuts demanded by the Regional Health Authority. The RHA say that the Cuts are forced on them by the Government. Organised labour in the area has protested vociferously, have arranged public meetings and demonstrations, have issued countless statements.

This is NOT ENOUGH. The workers have shown that they are totally opposed to the Cuts. Workers in a similar position at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, in Euston, are refusing to allow their AHA to axe their jobs and their hospital by occupying the hospital and continuing to provide services. Workers - doctors, nurses and ancillary staff - at threatened hospitals and blocks MUST do the same. They MUST have the support of Joint Shop Stewards Committees, the Trades Council and the Community Health Council. The AHA MUST refuse to implement the Cuts. Let them take a stand and refuse even to consider how to save money.

Only by joint, concerted and DIRECT action will the health workers and the people of Hackney prevent the total ruination of our tottering Health Service.

junior doctors fight back!

Junior doctors at Hackney Hospital have become so alarmed by the Cuts proposals that they have produced a joint statement pointing out the special problems of the area, and refuting the claim that any cuts can safely be carried out.

This is an area where all the measurements of the health of an area show it to be worse off than most of the rest of the country: more dead babies, more infectious diseases, more tuberculosis, more mental illness, more old people.

To cope with this situation, Hackney Hospital has a Casualty Department which is too small, with cubicles which are too small, a waiting room that cannot cope with people who may have to wait for long periods. The hospital has a psychiatric block which,

several years ago, was condemned as one of the worst in the country and has not improved; with poor treatment facilities, poor day-care facilities, and a very high readmission rate; and where nurses and doctors are under very great stress. The Maternity block is being moved to a place where there is no proper resuscitation service, adequate to cope with normal births but not designed to cope with pregnant women who need

Conditions are so bad at F Block, the psychiatric block at Hackney Hospital that the Royal College of Nursing won't allow student nurses to train there.

expert advice from other specialities. It is proposed that some of the wards are closed down, some made smaller, and some made '9 to 5' wards (please don't be ill at night).

If Hackney Hospital is allowed to be run down, there will only be two hospitals left (don't believe in the proposed District Hospital: if there is no money now, where is the money for that going to come from?). These two hospitals are Barts - which has shown itself to be unwilling to take its responsibility for Hackney seriously (only 14% of its patients are from Hackney), and St Leonards - which is already having to cope with the extra patients from the Metropolitan.

The doctors feel that the people of Hackney do not realise the full scale of the catastrophe that will hit the Health Service if the cuts go through. It should not be just the Health Service Unions which strike over the proposed cuts, but every trade unionist in the area should down tools to support a hard-fought-for service which certain people would like to see disappear.



EGA: Workers work-in

On 16 November workers at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital started the first ever hospital occupation and work-in in this country. By a unanimous vote the staff members voted to set up a 24 hour picket to stop any surreptitious attempts to close the hospital. The occupation has official support from all the health unions - NUPE, ASTMS, COHSE and NALGO. The workers have formed a Hospital Action Committee (which includes consultants, who are continuing to refer patients to the hospital) which has endorsed the occupation.

Full facilities and services are being maintained at the hospital and patients' care is not being affected.

The occupation will continue until the Health Minister reverses the planned closure of the hospital. All decisions about the occupation are being taken by all staff. Only by rank-and-file DIRECT action of this kind can health workers fight back against threatened closures. Workers in hospitals in Hackney must now follow the lead of the EGA and take such action!

Military Research and Development expenditure alone in the coming year will be £702 MILLION.

At the Area Health Authority meeting on 11 November the closure of the Mother's Hospital was decided by the Chairman's casting vote. Only 14 of the 25 members of the Authority bothered to vote.

Health Heirarchy

Success in the struggle by Hackney health workers against the cuts has been thin on the ground, and people inside and outside the NHS are beginning to ask why.

The first and most obvious explanation is the lack of political will in the government. Take the three Hackney Labour MPs. Despite frequent public statements condemning the appalling state of Hackney's health, they won't vote against the Government's policy on public spending, and they didn't turn up on the massive national demonstration on November 17.

Within the NHS, the barriers are enormous. The three-tiered structure of the Health Service is top-heavy and completely undemocratic. At the top comes the Regional Health Authorities (ours is the NE Thames RHA), whose members are appointed by the Secretary of State. The Government allocates money direct to the Region - and we'll be getting less in future so that more can be given to the poorer regions of the country.

The Area Health Authorities are the middle tier - ours is the City and East London AHA, made up of Hackney, the City, Tower Hamlets and Newham. The Area decides on policy and priorities and allocates money accordingly to the local districts. The Area has paid officers and twenty-four unpaid members. Four of these are appointed by the Secretary of State, ten by the Regional Health Authority, and the remaining ten by the ILEA, the University of London, the City Corporation and the boroughs of Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets. Although the Area's meetings are open to the public and press, there's clearly little chance of democratic control there!

Nurses who finish their training at the Hackney Hospital this Christmas have been told that there are no jobs for them, and that they will have to go on the dole.

The bottom tier is the District Management Team, - unelected paid officials who are responsible for the day-to-day running of the health service locally.

The public's only direct access to the NHS's decision-making process is via the Community Health Council. Our City and Hackney CHC has thirty members (unpaid), fifteen of whom are appointed by the local authority, five by the Regional Health Authority, and ten of whom are elected by local voluntary organisations. The CHC has access to much useful information. But while it has to be consulted about plans for the district, it is powerless to prevent these plans from being carried out.

So the whole structure of the NHS militates against our success in fighting the cuts. Given that this is so, surely the unions in the health service could force the hands of the government and the administrators. The trouble is, health workers are members of a large number of different unions of varying degrees of militancy. Many health workers have little experience of "industrial" type action, and this can be difficult to organise because of the grouping of several hospitals into one branch.

There are still very few nurses in unions - most are members of the RCN which is not affiliated to the TUC. Still fewer doctors belong to a union, and so unionised health workers who do take action tend to be portering, domestic and ancillary staff, and technicians. There has been some demoralisation amongst these sections who feel that until doctors and nurses ("the professionals") are prepared to join in the struggle, it will be unsuccessful. The "professionals" argue that direct action will cause the patients to suffer, but they'll suffer far more when our hospitals close down next year.

These problems are not arguments for giving up. Far from it. They are arguments for building into the campaign the demand for a democratically controlled health service, run for the people by the people. This means extending the campaign into a broad movement that embraces community groups, tenants associations, and all the unions. Our campaign must mirror the Health Service we need. Otherwise we will simply be defending an already creaking structure!

Don't let Hackney die: OCCUPY!

GLC Tenants in Slum Housing

Pembury Estate, Hackney, is a pre-war estate owned by the GLC consisting of 28 blocks of flats. The flats are officially described by the GLC as *low-demand* accommodation and *difficult to let*. By this they mean that the flats are difficult to let to people on the council's waiting list, who are normally entitled to at least three offers of council accommodation. Taking into consideration what it is like to live on an estate like Pembury, it is easy to see why people on the waiting-list turn it down.

The conditions.

On Pembury Estate there are whole blocks of flats empty, boarded up, vandalized and left to decay. One block, Adisham House, has been empty for three years. The GLC say they can't afford to rehabilitate it. At the same time as Adisham House was emptied, the GLC moved tenants out of Marden House with intent to modernise, then they decided that they couldn't afford it so moved tenants back into Marden House as it was. The GLC is now doing piece-meal repairs in this block with tenants in occupation, yet the tenants had to form a tenants association before they could get anything done, and they say that the GLC is now more willing to listen to their demands for more extensive modernization since the tenants association was formed.

However, overall, the Estate is very run-down. In the concrete yards there are overflowing drains and refuse piles up because the bins are full and the rubbish-shutes get blocked up causing a health risk to children who have to play in the yards because there is nowhere else. All the flats are in need of modernization, the rooms are cramped, and there are many instances of over-crowding, e.g. families with six or more children living in 4 bedroomed flats.

Who lives there.

A high proportion of the occupants are blacks,



immigrants, single-parent families, large families, old people, and a handful of squatters and ex-squatters. (Only those squatters with children or with physical disabilities whom councils have a legal obligation to house, get tenancies.) The few squatters who have occupied flats on Pembury Estate have been taken through the courts very quickly. The GLC is also quick to threaten eviction to tenants on Pembury who get into rent arrears, issuing 'Notices to Quit' to tenants who go six weeks in arrears, without warning, and consideration of the tenant's circumstances. On a run-down estate with high unemployment this attitude amounts to victimization of the poorest social classes, many of whom could not turn down the offer of a flat on Pembury as they were homeless. The inadequacies of GLC housing policy condemn people to live in squalor and wait for repairs, while they have 'welfare' officers whose job it is to squeeze the rent money out of people by whatever means.

Tenants can improve their living conditions by organizing and forming tenants associations. However, on Pembury Estate, racism and apathy among tenants are problems which have to be overcome.

The Hackney United Tenants Association is an umbrella association of tenants in Hackney, who are calling for all tenants to organize collectively to win their demands for better housing, and to contest the racism and 'scape-goating' of certain sections of the community, such as immigrants and squatters, as being responsible for the appalling housing situation.

The responsibility lies with Councils, the Government, and the bankers who make profit out of housing.

The Hackney United Tenants Association meets every Monday at 7.45 p.m. at STAMFORD HILL LIBRARY, STAMFORD HILL, N.16. They publish a paper *United Tenant* monthly, and can be contacted c/o 35 Fimmere House, Woodberry Down Estate, London N.4.

SOCIALISTS AGAINST THE EDUCATION CUTS

Conditions in many Hackney schools are poor - classes are oversized, inadequate buildings are still waiting to be replaced, supply teachers are often unavailable. The recent education cuts have only worsened the situation.

The Hackney Socialist Education Association (SEA) and more recently a steering committee of the Council for Educational Advance (CEA) have been formed in response to the growing debate on education.

The SEA is a national organisation which aims to promote education debate within the Labour Party and to publicise facts concerning education standards. Only those eligible for Labour Party membership can join. Members include socialists interested in education in a non-professional capacity such as school managers, governors and parents, as well as teachers.

The Hackney SEA meet on the first Tuesday of each month 8p.m. at Centerprise. Subjects discussed have included democracy in schools,

16+ exam, and racialism in schools.

The Hackney SEA believe that many problems in schools are caused by inefficient organisation. A draft plan for the democratic organisation of schools has been formulated by the group.

The Hackney branch has delegates on the management committees of the local Labour Parties and regularly submits education resolutions. SEA members have also given talks on education at some local ward meetings.

Publicity plays an important part in the group's activities and information about educational matters has been published in the Hackney Gazette and local Labour Party newsletters.

The CEA is a national body working for the improvement and expansion of the education system. At present its main activity is to spearhead the campaign against the Cuts. Nearly 50 bodies are affiliated including the SEA and many Trade Unions.

The formation of a Hackney CEA is being supported by the

Trades Council and the Hackney NUT. The organisation is a forum for all those fighting against the cuts such as teachers, parents, pupils and Trades Unionists. It welcomes affiliations from organisations fighting the cuts. A meeting was held at Central Hall, Mare Street, on 16 November as part of the National Week of Action instigated by the national CEA and the TUC South-Eastern Region. At this meeting various speakers outlined the devastating effect of the Cuts on education at all levels. The next meeting will be devoted to the furtherance of the local fight against education Cuts.

The Hackney CEA and the Hackney NUT have organised a petition against the Cuts, which will be sent to local Education Authorities.

For further information about the SEA contact Beverley Bowes (Secretary), 83 Eleanor Road, E8.

For further information about the CEA contact Centerprise.

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN

ABORTION AND THE CUTS

With all the health services in Hackney suffering from the cuts in public spending it is now more important than ever that the fight for abortion rights should continue. At least two hospitals in Hackney definitely face closure and staff in all hospitals are being severely reduced. This provides an excuse for an even tighter restriction than before on facilities for abortion.

Women are bearing the brunt of many aspects of the cuts. A large proportion of workers in the public service sector are women, e.g. hospital cleaners, auxiliaries, local government workers. These are the first jobs to be slashed. Less directly, it is of course women who are suffering from the cuts in nurseries, playgrounds and all out of school facilities for children.

Women have always had to fight for the right to choose whether or not to have a child, and in Hackney it has been particularly difficult, with gynaecologists who are notorious for their anti-abortion views. Now, with the cuts in the NHS, those doctors have a ready-made excuse for refusing all abortions outright.

In January the National Abortion Campaign is holding a public tribunal on abortion as an alternative to the biased reports of the Select Committee in Parliament. They are collecting evidence from women who have experience of abortions, legal or illegal, from women who have been refused abortions, as well as evidence from social workers, teachers and doctors.

Hackney Abortion Campaign has questionnaires prepared for the tribunal. Please contact HAC for further information about the tribunal and the ways in which you can be involved.

PLEASE:
put a resolution through your union branch
circulate questionnaires amongst your friends and workmates
include the fight for abortion facilities in any activity against the cuts
come to HAC meetings

*Hackney Abortion Campaign meetings are held every second Wednesday (next meeting 8th Dec.).
13 Sandringham Road, E8
Tel: 249 - 3768*

MURRAYS: They must not hang!

Noel and Marie Murray are two anarchists from Dublin who were sentenced to death in June this year, accused of the killing of an off duty policeman after a bank raid in Dublin. At their trial no evidence was produced to connect them with the killing other than an un-signed confession by Marie, after she was forced to listen to her husband being tortured, which she later retracted. Ronan Stenson, also accused, was so badly tortured that the trial had to be abandoned. They were tried by three Government appointed judges and no jury and two newspapers were prosecuted for criticizing the outcome. This amounts to a complete distortion of justice by the police, the court and the Irish government.

The Murrays hope of avoiding hanging rest on an appeal to the supreme court which was heard in the first week of November but which we still await decision.

An active campaign to stop the hangings and free them has begun World-wide. We believe that the Murrays, as Anarchists, have been set up as scape-goats by a government who is under pressure to take a tough line against the I.R.A. with whom they have no connection.

More information is available from:- Murray Defence Group, Box 2
Rising Free. 138/142 Drummond st. NW1.

People BEFORE Roads

-LIFT THE BLIGHT NOW

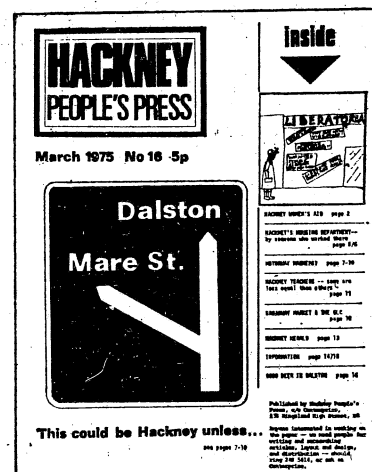
When will the North Cross Route be allowed to die in peace and join all the other road plans in that great Motorway Box in the sky? Once again the Hackney Wick to Highbury Corner route has raised its ugly head: this time in the form of "improvements" to existing roads. This at least is the latest proposal coming from the GLC, now being considered by the boroughs affected: Hackney and Islington.

In May this year the North East London Project (NELP) reported to the GLC and remained very much in favour of new roads. (It was NELP which recommended the plan for the four-lane road from the Wick to Dalston which was dropped last year.) Because the GLC now has no money for new roads the May report opted for a system of road widenings and junction improvements and ducked the question of "safeguarding" (where the council reserves the right to compulsorily purchase houses along the route of a projected road) although it did slip in the "possibility of new road construction." This report was considered by the Central Area Board and its recommendations to the GLC Transport Committee were accepted in July. Now the GLC is having discussions with the councils

affected concerning road widenings and junction improvements along the North Cross Route before deciding whether or not to abandon the safeguarding.

CHEAPER AND NASTIER

Road widening and junction improvements are just a cheaper and nastier way of achieving the same ends: a link between the motorway at Hackney Wick and the M1 via Highbury Corner. Some improvements are obviously necessary such as taking Brookfield Road out of the Wick one-way system. A Hackney Councillor has said that one of the suggestions is to widen Wick Road and make it two-way and, with the present delapidation of Morning Lane, this could be extended to Mare Street. This is a case once more of motorways creeping in by the back door. The effect of this on the people living in the area would obviously be as bad as a new road. Clearly Hackney is once more seen as an easy target, and once the work is done it would be much easier for the planners to finish the job right through Islington. It is obvious that the GLC wants to increase the capacity of this route somehow to cope with the extra traffic which will come from the M1 extension when it is completed and for the



STOP THE ROAD! HPP, March 1975

present very heavy traffic which comes through the Blackwall Tunnel heading for the north.

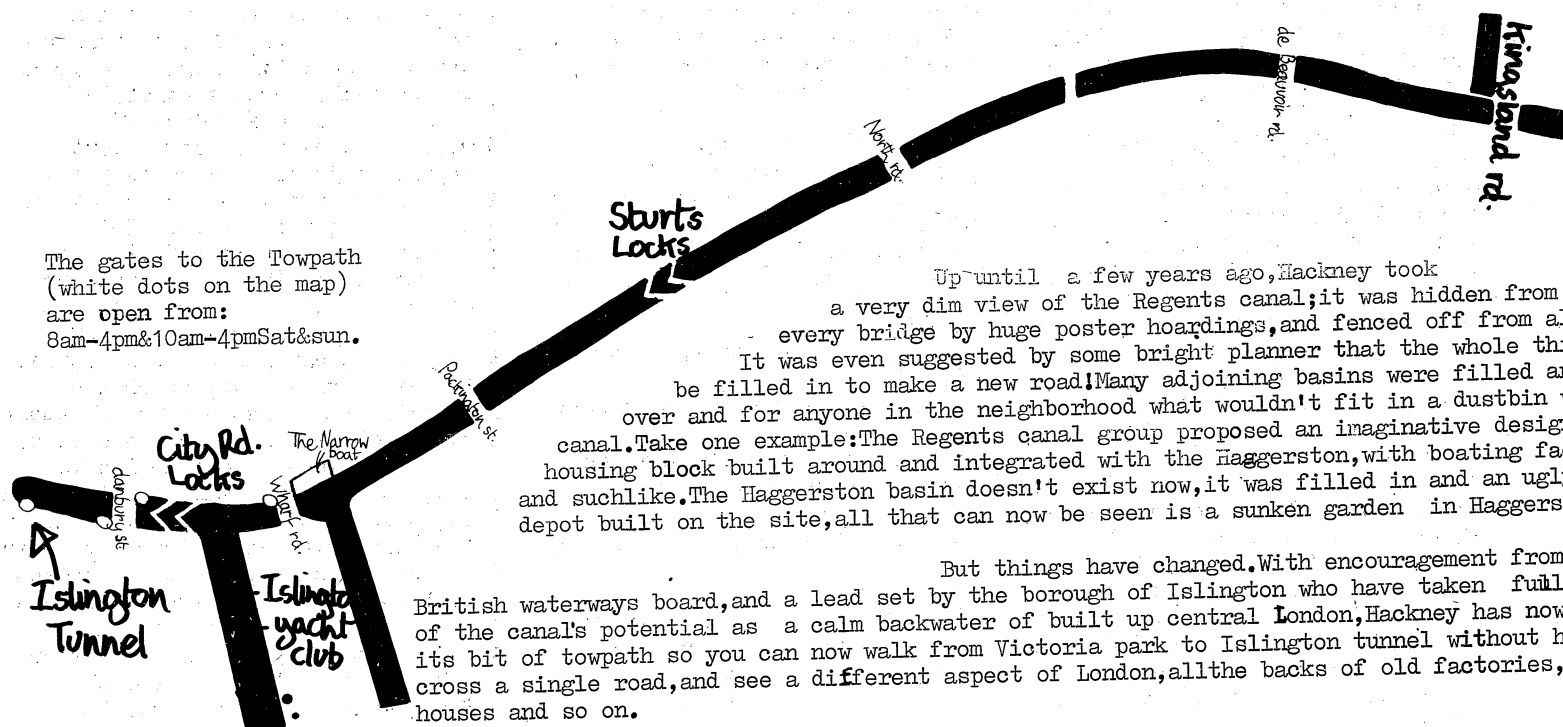
Hackney Council has now rejected these plans, but this is not enough to stop the GLC. There are still people in County Hall and the Department of the Environment who believe that the only answer to traffic problems is bigger and better roads. The fight can be won if public opinion makes the GLC reject any plans that increase the capacity of the Wick-Highbury route.

Lobby or write to your GLC Councillors now! The GLC Councillors for Hackney are:

David Pitt (Hackney North)
Ellis Hillman (Hackney Central)
Irene Chaplin (Hackney South)

All of them can be written to at County Hall, London SE1.

REGENTS CANAL



gingerbread plea

- p's please!

The message from the first campaign bulletin for the "One P Appeal" is a simple one. If Gingerbread is to maintain the level of care, counsel and assistance to lone parents then they must raise money.

Gingerbread have joined forces with the National Campaign for One Parent Families to run the campaign. Local groups have to think of ideas beginning with 'p' - like a pickle and preserves stall or a pram race - and organise them to raise badly needed funds.

A short while ago I spoke to Brenda Royal who has recently taken over the secretaryship of the Hackney group. The group has been going for about four years and for most of that time Gloria O'Sullivan has been very much the mainstay.

At first the group met at the back of a charity shop in Victoria Park Road. Before coming to the Task Force premises a couple of years ago it met at the Salvation Army Hall in Lower Clapton. It was a big improvement on the charity shop but meetings were somewhat stilted by the constant

attendance of a Salvation Army Officer. The strict No Smoking rule couldn't have done anything to boost attendances either.

Not surprisingly the group faced a major crisis when Gloria not only gave up the chairmanship but left the group altogether about four months ago. The situation was so bad that Rose Knight came down from National Office to try and prevent the group folding up altogether. At the crisis meeting Brenda Royal agreed to take over the Secretaryship and there was a general commitment from those who attended to try to keep the group going. With most of the organising responsibilities initially falling on one person's shoulders, meetings had to be held on a fortnightly rather than a weekly basis. They now have a respectable twenty or so at their meetings and it seems likely that they will be able to revert to weekly meetings again fairly soon.

There is a Christmas dance and jumble sale planned for December which it is hoped will attract new members and money for the "One P" appeal.

One of the most exciting recent developments is the setting up of a new Gingerbread branch in Bethnal Green.

This is particularly important because of the lack of groups in North and East London.

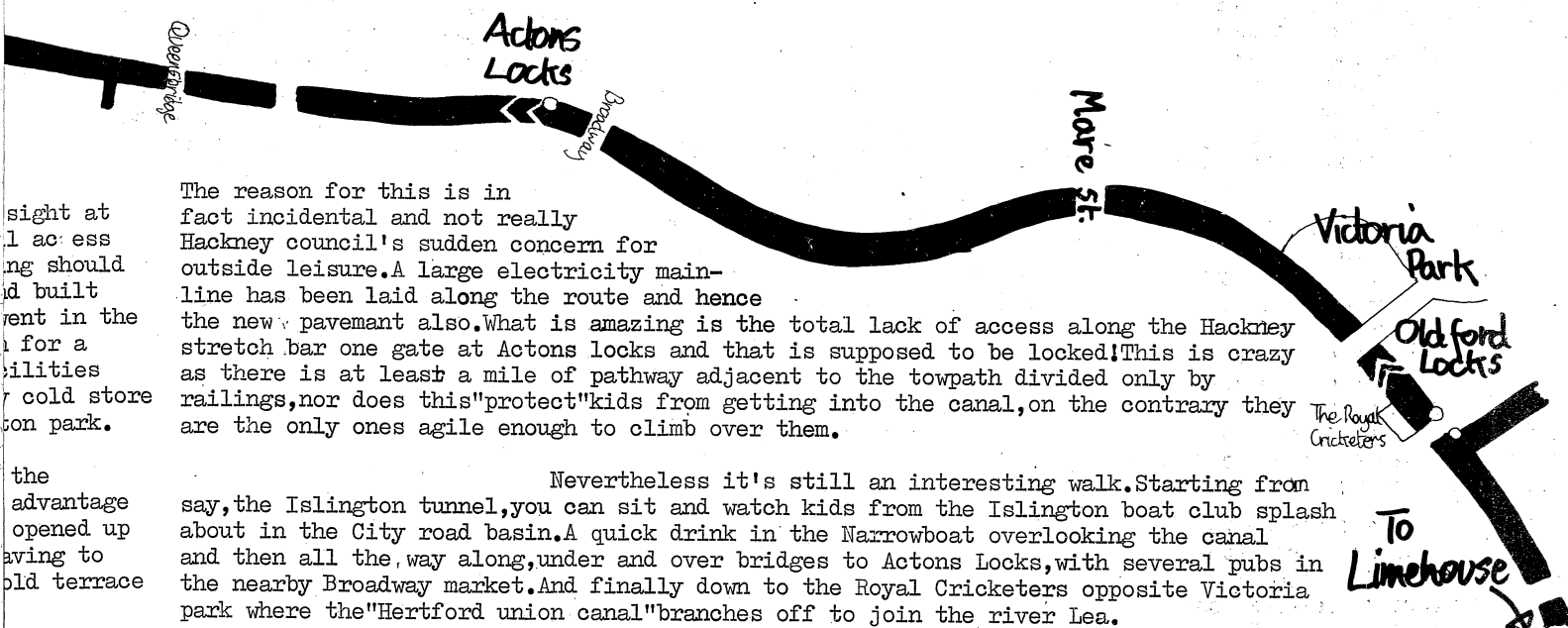
Many people who contact Brenda as the local Gingerbread contact think of it as solely an organisation giving information and advice to single parents. The advisory role is very important, but those who go along to a few meetings often discover that some of the other things Gingerbread offers can be even more valuable to them.

It may be argued that as the economic crisis bites deeper into the standard of life of all working people the most vital role of Gingerbread is in campaigning on the issues which affect single parents. Most of the issues are the same of those affecting two parents but the degree of hardship can be much worse.

Lone parents often have to face complex legal problems at a time when they are emotionally vulnerable. There is no simple unified system of family law. Divorce courts and magistrates courts deal with the problems of family breakdown on completely different legal principles.

It is for these reasons and many more that it is so vital for the one-in-ten families in this country who have only one parent that Gingerbread's "One P" appeal is a success.

a new walk in Hackney



EXPOSED!

Who are the Hackney Flashers?

"... young and beautiful ...",
sings Radio One.

"Can men cope with the shopping?" ... asks a family magazine seriously.

Can a woman be young and beautiful and cope with the shopping, the cooking, cleaning, laundry, three children and work a 6-10 pm industrial shift while her husband looks after the children? Who looks after the children if she doesn't live with a man who will, or, alternatively, how does she earn her living if there is no one to help look after the children? What are women doing? What do they think they're doing? What are they told they should be doing? How do they support themselves on what they're paid for what they're doing? These are questions the Hackney Flashers Collective are investigating.

The Hackney Flashers Collective is a group of ten socialist women. All of us work either professionally or non professionally in visual communications. Some of us have only started to do so since we joined the Hackney Flashers. We share the skills we have with one another and are committed to making photography accessible to anyone interested in it.

A year and a half ago eight of us got together to photograph the work that women are doing in Hackney. The recently formed Women's Subcommittee of the Hackney Trades Council had insisted on having a section of the Trades Council's 75th Anniversary Exhibition devoted to women workers in Hackney and had asked us to do the photographs for it.

It became apparent how appropriate the demand was when the Trades Council chose as a theme for the total anniversary celebrations, "75 Years of Brotherhood".



Photograph by Hackney Flashers.

"Women - Work in Hackney", an exhibition of some two hundred prints accompanied by statistics regarding pay, promotion prospects and union power of women both nationally and in Hackney was shown in the Hackney Town Hall from September 23 to October 4 1975. The kind of work and working conditions pictured in the exhibition and the pay scales accompanying them attested to the fact that the unions had paid little attention to sisterhood in those seventy-five years of activity in Hackney. After the exhibition closed we, who had decided to call ourselves the "Hackney Flashers" because we expose situations which are normally hidden, became aware of some of the inadequacies of the exhibition.

The issues facing women workers are much broader than discrimination in pay, training and promotion possibilities. They bring into question the very nature of what is considered work and its organization in our society.

Wage work done either at home or outside the home by women is promoted as not serious and to be done for "pin money", for it is assumed that women are and should be economically dependent on men, even though in reality most families are dependent on the woman's wage. Thus community facilities which would provide a social environment for young children and show a recognition of the actual economic and psychological needs of contemporary women are considered "unaffordable luxuries". Part time wage work for both women and men with young children so that both could provide part time care for the children and share domestic chores is hardly suggested.

The Hackney Flashers use the tools of the popular media - documentary photography, commercial advertising images and statistical information - but as a means of investigating the conditioning of women into accepting their duties as wives and mothers- and also to investigate the role in capitalist society women's work both within the home and outside it.

The Exhibitions:

"Women - Work in Hackney" is available for hire at a small fee.

Contact Michael Ann Mullen
7 Archibald Road
London N7.
607-4728

or Ann Dekker
232 Mare Street
London E8
986-5861 (between
4.30 and 5.30 pm)

"Women and Childcare in Hackney" will be available sometime in 1977.

The Half Moon



THE HALF MOON THEATRE is situated between Aldgate and Aldgate East tubes in an area of redevelopment. The theatre itself is part of the old East End, but like the Theatre Royal at Stratford is surrounded on all sides by the concrete and chaos of the seventies.

The Half Moon began when a group of actors living in an old synagogue in Aldgate saw the possibilities of turning the building into a theatre. They took the name of the nearby Half Moon passage and four years ago last January put on the first play, Brecht's "In the Jungle of the Cities". It provoked a storm of protest from the orthodox federation of synagogues; a turbulent start which immediately put the Half Moon on the theatre map.

Since then there have been 37 productions in Alie St. Most of these have been completely new plays. The rest have been either straight classics, or plays which have been specially adapted to get the maximum involvement of local people.

SOCIAL BACKGROUND

Amongst it's roles the theatre attempts to explain through it's plays the historial development of the East End. "Ripper", for instance was not just the story of the Whitechapel murders but an attempt to show the social and political background of the 1880's. Another example is "Get off my Back". This illustrated the changing relationships between people living and working in the East End and the merchants, dock owners and employers who have confronted them.

"George Davis is Innocent...OK." was one of the most popular of recent shows at the Half Moon. It was extended twice and ran for an unprecedented 10 weeks. Normal Half Moon runs are between 4 and 6 weeks. Ironically, by making the Half Moon fashionable and attracting a wider audience to it's shows the critical acclaim which "George Davis" and other plays have received may have the effect of losing the theatre's local identity. This must not happen because the Half Moon is first and foremost an East Ender's theatre.

WILTONS

Most H.P.P. readers will have heard of the Half Moons plans to convert the long disused Wilton's Music Hall in Cable Street to an Arts and Entertainments centre. If the Wiltons lease is granted one of the most difficult things will be trying to preserve as much as possible of the old intimacy of Alie St. in a much larger setting. The style of the shows will not change dramatically but will be broadened to take in the atmosphere that still lingers in this old Music Hall.

The Half Moon has been closed for repairs and maintenance since the last production "The Canning Town Cowboy" in August. This is almost finished now and will be ready for the next production which starts at the beginning of December. This will be a special adaption of "A Christmas Carol" which is aimed particularly at young children between 6 and 12. "A Christmas Carol" will run from December 2nd to 15th as a matinee show principally for school parties (details of times to be announced). Then from December 20th to January 8th (with a gap over Christmas from the 22nd. to 29th.) there will be evening performances on all weekdays and on Saturdays starting at 7 o'clock.

SUPPORT THE HALF MOON

Finally, I would like to make an appeal to readers of H.P.P. to support this local theatre. It will cost £260,000 to renovate and convert Wiltons, so if the Half Moon get the lease then clearly financial support will be needed. But most of all, if you've never been to the Half Moon, I urge you to go along and see the next couple of plays there. After that you'll probably be an addict.

Watch the Information page of H.P.P. for details of future productions and where appropriate we will include reviews of Half Moon plays. Hopefully, by the next issue we will have news that the Half Moon has been granted the Wilton's lease.

friends of the earth group forms

In recent years there has been growing concern about the increasing number of factors that threaten our environment. A glance at any newspaper or television programme will almost invariably reveal accounts of another pollution hazard, protest against the construction of a motorway or nuclear reactor, the rising prices of dwindling resources and so on.

There are gloomy forecasts for the future of our raw material and food resources, and on the effects of pollution on ourselves and our surroundings, but while these warnings may be floating around at a general level, unless action is taken at the practical level, there is little hope of these dangers being stopped until it's too late.

So what role could an environmental action group play in an area like Tower Hamlets/Hackney? Ecological hazards occur at national and local levels, but the two are linked. The East end may not contain any Nuclear reactors or Agricultural land, but the decisions taken at a national level concerning energy and food policy will affect us all. There are many things that can be done at a local level that would raise peoples consciousness of the problems at the same time as making a contribution to solving them. Local groups in other areas of London have started recycling schemes for glass, metal, paper and textiles, and some local councils have taken over the responsibility for recycling and reclamation. Waste land has been taken over and used for allotments, most of us can think of local sites where this could be done. The quality and price of London Transport concerns a large number of us, and better provision needs to be made for those who choose to travel by bike. If it has been done in other boroughs then it can be done here. A local group could take immediate measures to improve our own area, and would also and would also provide a basis for informing ourselves and others about the wider issues involved and how to approach them.

If you are interested in these issues, or feel strongly about other issues that the local group could tackle, please come to our first meeting on Dec 2nd 8pm at St. Hildas in the East, Club row, E2. There will be a slide show on waste and recycling. For further "Friends of the Earth" info, write to 9 Poland st. London W1v3DG.

information

GROUPS

HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

34 Dalston Lane, E.8.
Advice service on Tuesdays and
Thursdays from 10.30- 4.00pm.
Tea Bar on Mon-Fri. 10.30-4.00pm.

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT

Upper Clapton Congregational
Hall, E.5.
Social and advice centre, aimed
particularly at black people.
Tuesday 10am-10pm
Thursday 10am-4.30pm
Friday 10am-10pm.

OFF CENTRE

25 Hackney Grove, E.8
Advice for young people between
13 and 25 with any problems.
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until
8.30pm on Tuesdays).
Tel 985 8566

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE

Friendship House, 27 Hackney
Grove, E.8
Provides a 24 hour telephone
service with people always
willing to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
985 0973
986 9146 (office hours)



SOUTH STOKE NEWINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

54 Harcombe Road, N.16
Contact them if you are concerned
about poor transport, badly
planned redevelopment, empty
houses and nowhere for kids to play.

EAST STOKE NEWINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

c/o Barbara Harris, 124a Stoke
Newington High Street, N.16.

MENTAL PATIENTS UNION

Meet at 177 Glenarm Road, E5.

HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION

c/o 35 Finmere House,
Woodsbury Down N4.

HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS

Hackney South and Central YS.
Meet every Wednesday at 8 pm
at 34 Dalston Lane, E8.

Hackney North YS
Meet every other Monday at
8pm at 5 Stamford Hill, N.16.
Contact Mark Douglas, 103
Osbaldestone Road, N.16
All welcome.

HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM

Meets on the first Wednesday
of each month at the Hackney
Community Relations Council,
Mare St., E8.

Hackney Communist Party
10 branches hold meetings
regularly in all parts of the
borough. Contact:- Monty Goldman
12 Leaside rd. E5. Tel. 806 1367

HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

Contact E. Ross 986 5767.

TASK FORCE

34 Dalston Lane, E.8
Free advice for pensioners in
Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in
N.16 and N.4 only. Pensioners'
activities and neighbourhood
care in N.5. Tel 254 1620

HACKNEY INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Meet regularly in Centerprise.
Contact Liz 739 9772 for details.

ANARCHIST WORKERS ASSOCIATION

c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8
Contact Dave Coull 226 0817 for
details. Open discussion meetings
every third Tuesday evening.
Newspaper 'Anarchist Worker'
on sale in Centerprise.

Friends of the Earth

Meets Dec 2nd 8pm. St. Hildas in
the East, Club Row E2.

Hackney Gingerbread

Group for one parent families
Meets every other Monday at 34
Dalston Lane, E8 at 7.30
Contact:- Brenda Royal 986 9776
Xmas Dance at St. Scholastica's
Hall, Kenninghall rd. Music,
Free Buffet and Bar.
50p Admission. All Welcome.
Dec 11th. 7.30pm.
Jumble Sale 11.30am Dec 4th.
Beckers community Hall.
Rectory road. N16.

Hackney Trades Council
Xmas Dance. Dec 11th. 8pm.
at St. Hildas in the East.

Socialist Environment and Resources Association.

Next meeting Dec 14th.
A discussion on job creating
schemes. Tower Hamlets Town
Hall. 8pm.

GAYS

East London Faggots
Collective of Gay socialists
living and working in east
London. Contact:- 790 2454
19 Redmans rd. E1.
North London Gay Centre
17 Perth road. N4.



WOMEN

Hackney Womens Aid

Shelter for battered women and
children. Contact:-

Linda	521 2547
John	985 4901
Linda	488.3333 (days)
Catrina	985 3059 (eves)

HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL

Womens Sub-Committee.

Meets second Thursday of every
month at Centerprise.
ALL ARE WELCOME.

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN

Meetings every second Wednesday
(next meeting 8Dec) 13 Sandringham
road E8. Tel. 249 3768.

THE WORKSHOP

81 Lenthall Road, E8.
Tel 254 9632, before 6 pm on
Tuesdays to Fridays only.

Learn to print poster, T-shirts
etc at non-commercial rates.
Cost of materials only. Open
Tuesdays to Sundays, 1 pm to
8 pm.

HEALTH

CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL.

Takes up criticism of local
health services.
Shoreditch Health Centre,
210 Kingsland Road, E.2
739 6308. Open Monday-Friday
10am-5pm.

THEATRE

Half Moon Theatre

Alie st. E1. new production:-
"Christmas Carol" opens Dec 2nd
See article on p.9 of this issue
or Ring 480 6465 for details.

USE
THIS SPACE
FREE!

IF YOUR GROUP
MEETS REGULARLY
OR YOU WANT
TO ADVERTISE
EVENTS, SEND
DETAILS TO
HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS
c/o CENTERPRISE

CHILDREN



HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION

Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St., E.8
Tel 254 9145.

Hackney Under Fives

Centerprise. Information and support for parents with children below school age.

Contact Madge Harte or Gillian Wilding.

PARTY! Dec 11th in Centerprise.

ADVICE

CENTERPRISE ADVICE CENTRE

Advice on housing problems, legal problems, welfare and social security. Thursdays 6.30-7.30 pm at Centerprise.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE

5 Stamford Hill, N16.
Gives advice on tenants' problems especially harassment and repairs. Fridays 7-8 pm.

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU AND LAW CENTRE

236-8 Mare St., E8. Tel 986 8446. Open Monday to Friday 10 am-5 pm (7.30 pm Thursdays). Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment.

STOKE NEWINGTON ADVICE GROUP

Free expert advice on legal, financial, family/welfare and other matters. Information and help on housing, social security and personal problems. Mondays and Wednesdays 7-8.30pm in Church Hall, 102 Manor Road, N.16. By Manor Road/Lordship Road traffic lights - 106 bus.

subscribe

to Hackney People's Press and make sure of your copies regularly. Only £1.25 for ten issues. Please make cheque out to Hackney People's Press and send it to Hackney People's Press, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

information

FOOD

DOWN TO EARTH

Durham Row, Stephney Green, E1.
Tel 790 3512.
Wholefood shop selling grains, flour, beans, honey, herbs, etc.
Open Mon-Sat 9 am to 6 pm.

CENTERPRISE

136 Kingsland High Street, E.8
254 9632

Bookshop and office hours:

Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 6.30pm

Coffeebar and meeting rooms hours:

Tuesday to Friday 10am to 10pm
Saturday 10am to 6.30pm

Facilities

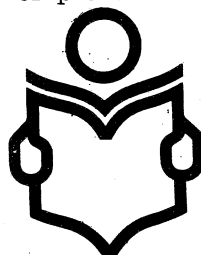
Coffeebar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters and duplicator for people to use free: ask in General Office.

Advice Centre

Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays, 6.30 to 7.30pm. Contact Jon Webber or phone 254 9634.

Reading Centre

For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnel or phone 254 9635.



Publishing Project

Publishing books by people who live in Hackney. Contact Ken Worpole or phone 254 9634.

Youth project

Table tennis, music, writing, discussion groups, etc. Tuesday to Friday afternoons, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Contact Oliver Flavin.

FRIDAY NIGHT EVENTS for December at Centerprise.

3rd. Alternative Technology.
Mike Cooley from Lucas Aerospace.

10th. Hackney under Fives.

A film about the setting up of a community centre for Kids.

17th. Christmas Decorations.

Come and learn how to make your own.

18th. Childrens show at 11am.

by the E.A.S.T. theatre Group.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative paper produced by a group of people living in the borough, for the people of Hackney.

We do not publish for profit, but because we hope you will find it interesting and useful. The paper is not aligned to or funded by any political party.

We still need YOUR help, YOUR interest and YOUR enthusiasm to make this truly YOUR paper. If you would like to help us in any way -- and we need help to do everything: write articles, type them out, do the design and layout, take photographs, distribute and sell the finished copies -- then come to our next meeting

CENTERPRISE
Thursday 6 January
7.30p.m.

or leave us a note in Centerprise, or ring 249 0311, for further details.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is sold in the following bookshops and newsagents around Hackney.

CENTERPRISE Bookshop

136 Kingsland High Street, E.8
GRIFFITHS, 7 Albion Parade, Albion Road, N.16

SOCRATOUS, 67 Nevill Road, N.16

230 Graham Road, E.8

CDS, 54 Evering Road, N.16

246 Morning Lane, E.9

YOUNGERS, 15 Dalston Lane, E.8

ROUNDAABOUT, 368 Mare Street, E.8

SUPPLIES SUPPLIES, 63 Dalston Lane, E.8

If your local newsagent would like to sell HPP, then please contact us (Trade discount is available.)

HPP is also sold through community groups in the borough and on various housing estates. If you don't feel that you can spare the time to become fully involved in producing HPP but you enjoy reading it and you think more people should read it, then please contact us if you are prepared to sell a few copies to your friends and neighbours, or at your meetings.

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Printed by Chris Broad, London 359 4794



christmas
award

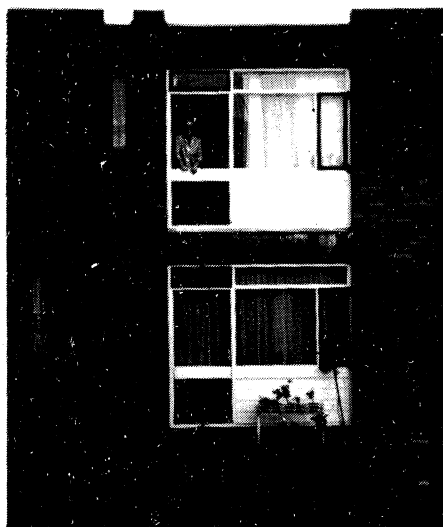
DROPPING A BRICK

This year, we award the plastic fairy from the top of our Xmas tree to the Architect who designed Beanacre Close, Trowbridge Estate. Mrs. Henrietta Barnes, of number 39, likes having a French window in her bed-sitting room.

There's just one, small snag, however.....



The French window opens.....



.....onto a fourteen-foot drop!

Womens Aid Appeal

Hackney People's Press No.16 (March 1975) contained an article on Hackney Women's Aid. Since then the two G.L.C. short-life properties have been closed for demolition, and the group has been negotiating with Hackney Council for another house. We have now got a house which we hope to open soon, and a full-time worker paid by an Urban Aid grant.

We would like to appeal to H.P.P. readers for any old furniture: beds, wardrobes, chests of drawers, or chairs, and for bedding, crockery, cutlery, toys etc.

Our new contact numbers are:-

Linda 521-2547

John 985-4901

Linda 488-3333 (day-time)

Catriona 985-3059 (evenings)

high rises with BR

Few would deny that Liverpool st. needs improvement, but the deal that was revealed in November's Enquiry will please even fewer. Except of course for the hoards of architects and contractors who are preparing to make their little piles. A new station we do need. What we don't need is over a million sq. feet of office space in an area where there is already too much. B.R. after all, is supposed to promote Public transport rather than private property development. But with the end of the Enquiry goes the last chance to stop this corporate misplanning. It will take at least ten years to complete and the cost has not even been guessed at. BUT ONE THING YOU CAN BE SURE OF we are paying WE ARE PAYING FOR IT ALL !

FIGHT THE CUTS!-SEND THIS LETTER TO THE MINISTER,
DR.DAVID ENNALS-AND GET YOUR FRIENDS TO WRITE TOO!
(See pages 2&3)

David Ennals, M.P.,
Secretary of State for Health
and Social Security,
Alexander Fleming House,
Elephant and Castle,
London, S.E.1.

Dear Mr. Ennals,

As a resident of Hackney I wish to protest strongly at the proposed cuts in health services in this district. The closure of at least two hospitals in an area which is already deprived is surely incompatible with the Government's claim to be socialist.

Compared with the G.L.C. area as a whole, Hackney has within it 50% more pensioners living alone, 50% more registered handicapped people, and almost 3 times the number of children coming into care. Your own Department recommends that this district should have 70 Health Visitors (1 per 3,000 population) yet in March this year it had only 19. The list of Hackney's problems is enormous, in short it suffers from all the classic health problems of an inner city area.

The Government of which you are a member would apparently rather spend money on "Defence"-the National Death Service - than on its peoples' health. What is the point of defending us from "foreign invaders" if many of us are to be left to suffer and die due to inadequate health care?

The Government's course can only result in anger and rejection from its erstwhile supporters, and I therefore urge you to reconsider these barbarous cuts before this country's Social Services are reduced to the level of the 1930's.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)